

In the Specification

Applicant presents replacement paragraphs below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 26, and spanning to the top of page 5, with the amended paragraph as follows:

In accordance with still another aspect of the invention, a system for managing the movement of interoffice items is provided which includes a plurality of terminals at which a sender enters into the system an item to be sent and/or a query to the system; a first mechanism operative in response to an item being entered for generating a tag to be affixed to the item; a second mechanism operative in response to an item being entered into the system for generating and storing a record for the item; a third mechanism operative at selected points in transport of an item in response to the tag for the item to control the transport; and a fourth mechanism by which the system utilizing the record for an item obtains a response to a query from an authorized system user relating to the item and provides a response to the user. The first mechanism preferably generates on each of the tags an item ID which is machine-readable and/or human-readable, the ID machine-readable form being printed on the tag in bar code for an illustrative embodiment. The second mechanism is preferably operative to update the record for an item as the item reaches at least certain points in the transport. The fourth mechanism preferably uses the updated record for an item to respond to a query concerning the status for the item. The system may receive a query from an item sender as to all items the sender has sent over a selected period and/or a query from an item recipient as to all items sent to the recipient over a selected period, the fourth mechanism looking at appropriate fields of item records to respond to such queries. [[?]]